

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 36 | Min 24 | Humidity 70%

Partly cloudy sky

Sensex 78,520 | Nifty 24,364 | Gold 1,55,290 | Silver 2,75,000 | Dollar 93.13 | Euro 109.56 | GBP 125.51

Muck it all

CITY
PAGE
4

Citizens seek action after apartment owners' association accused of laying pipe to let wastewater into Ambalipura Lake



Bottoms up

CITY
PAGE
5

State govt moves to overhaul excise duty policy on liquor, making mid-range and premium alcohol costlier



At least 2 women go missing every 5 hours in the city; over 10,700 cases reported in 3 years; in 2026 as of February 20, 469 such cases have been registered and 182 of these women remain untraced

THE LADY VANISHES

Early reporting by families has improved response time, police say

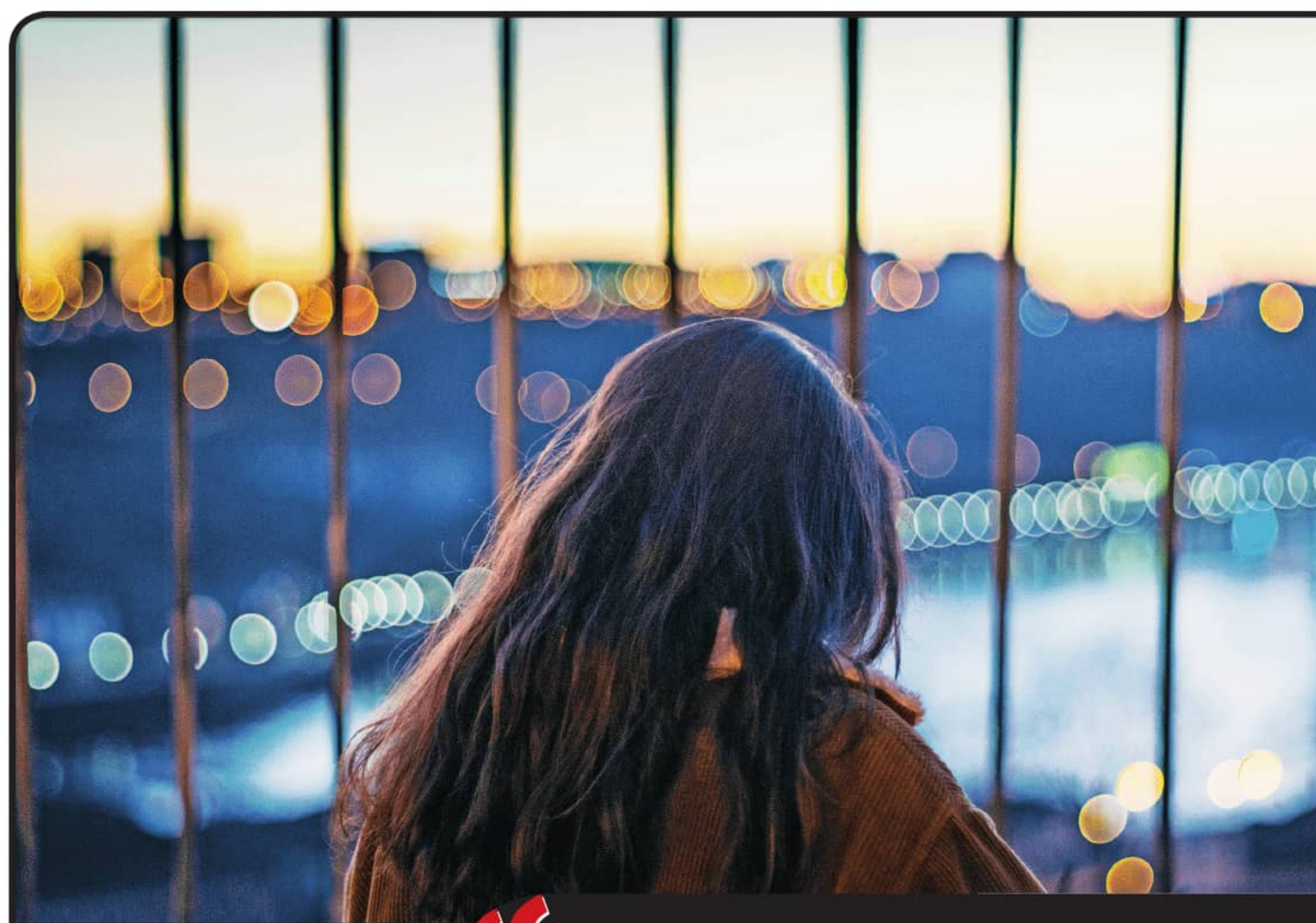
Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

How safe are women in Bengaluru? The question is pertinent once again as official data reveals a disturbing trend in the city. On average, two women are reported missing every five hours, according to figures presented before the legislature recently. The data shows that more than 10,700 women have been reported missing in Bengaluru over the last three years, highlighting the scale of the challenge law enforcement agencies are facing.

Police records show that 3,433 women were reported missing in 2023, while 75 remained untraced. The numbers translate to around nine missing women cases every day, which means two women were reported missing roughly every five hours during the year.

According to the data presented by Home Minister G Parameshwara, in 2024, the number of cases dipped slightly to 3,291, with 75 women still untraced. Despite the



marginal decline, the pattern remained largely unchanged, with around nine women going missing every day, again translating to two women disappearing roughly every five hours on average.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

“As soon as a missing complaint is registered, teams begin verification. CCTV footage, mobile phone tracking and coordination with other districts are used to locate the person

—Police officer

WAGES OF WAR



RIPPLES OF WAR

Uneven effect of LPG shortage on working class — no change for some who were anyway cooking using wood as they could not afford cylinder connections

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As Bengaluru faces an ongoing LPG shortage, its effects are being felt unevenly among workers, with some managing to cope while others struggle to adapt.

At construction sites and informal settlements across the city, many daily wage labourers continue to rely on firewood, twigs, and discarded materials for cooking. For them, the shortage of LPG has had little impact, as they have long depended on these traditional methods due to cost constraints. Workers often gather scrap wood or leftover packing materials from worksites to prepare meals, maintaining a routine that predates the current crisis.

“We have always cooked on firewood. We collect pieces from the site or nearby areas, so the gas shortage doesn’t really change anything for us,” said Ramesh, a construction worker living in a temporary shed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Musical spectacle

Created by acclaimed director and composer Kevin Oliver and presented in support of the Kempegowda International Airport Foundation (KIAF), *Odyssey of Love* is a contemporary pop opera blending music, fashion and storytelling into a visually rich and immersive spectacle. **Where:** Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; **When:** May 7

02 Dance of emotions



Rasanubhava is a classical dance festival that celebrates the journey from Rasa (emotion) to Bhava (expression), bringing together extraordinary artists and the timeless traditions of Indian performing arts on one stage. **Where:** Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; **When:** April 25, 5 pm

03 Stand-up and deliver

Rahul Dua, renowned stand-up comedian, a powerhouse performer,



host (Shark Tank India Season 2 & 3, Comicstaan S3 Finale), actor, creator

and writer will be performing live, marking his second stand-up special. **Where:** MLR Convention Centre, Whitefield; **When:** May 10, 7 pm



04 On top of the game

Loco Lane transforms match day into a premium fan sanctuary, offering all inclusive IPL screenings with gourmet dining and the comfort of premium box seating for an elevated experience. **Where:** Loco Lane, Ashok Nagar; **When:** Until May 31, 5 pm

05 Tune in

Rudraksha Live Entertainment Pvt Ltd presents Jazbaa, a concert featuring Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj — a powerhouse duo in Indian music and cinema, known for their deeply moving collaborations and individual brilliance. **Where:** Phoenix Marketcity; **When:** May 30, 7 pm



Amid grading row, SSLC results face uncertainty

If proceedings for final decision on grading format for third language subjects continues for long, SSLC result declaration may be pushed back further, says KSEAB Chairman

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The announcement of SSLC results, which was supposed to be out by April 24, has run into uncertainty following confusion over whether marks or grades should be awarded for the third language paper. With the matter now before the court, officials say that the announcement of results may be delayed unless a clear directive is issued soon.

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) had initially planned to declare the SSLC results on April 24. However, the state government's proposal to introduce a grading system instead of marks for third language subjects, including Hindi, has triggered legal challenges and administrative complications.

Petitions filed in court questioned the move, arguing that students should be awarded marks rather than grades. The High Court has since indicated that marks should be considered instead of grading. In response, the state government has filed an appeal seeking a review of this direction. The matter is scheduled for hearing on April 21, and the final decision will determine how the results will be announced.

Officials indicate that the outcome of the case will have a direct bearing on the evaluation process and overall result com-



Evaluators have already assessed third-language answer scripts by awarding marks, giving board flexibility to adapt to either system by converting marks into grades once legal clarity is achieved, says official

putation. "Any change between marks and grading could impact total scores, which in turn may affect college admissions. Pre-university colleges are closely watching the situation, especially as CBSE Class 10 results have already been declared, putting pressure on the state board to

follow suit," an official said.

This year, a total of 8.30 lakh students appeared for the SSLC examination, including 4.25 lakh boys and 4.05 lakh girls. With such a large number of students awaiting the results, any delay is likely to create anxiety among both students and parents, who remain eager for clarity on academic outcomes.

KSEAB Chairman Prakash GT Nittali stated that the board would comply with the court's final order. He explained that evaluators have already assessed the third language answer scripts by awarding marks. Based on the court's direction, the board is prepared to either

retain the marks or convert them into grades. He also cautioned that if the court proceedings continue for a longer duration, the declaration of results could be pushed further.

The evaluation process for SSLC examinations is nearing completion. For third language papers, marks have already been entered during assessment, giving the board flexibility to adapt to either system once the legal clarity is achieved.

Confusion over evaluation

The controversy has also led to confusion among students. Many had shown limited interest in the third language subject this year due to the uncertainty surrounding evaluation.

Now, with the possibility of marks being reinstated instead of grades, concerns have grown over how it may affect their final scores and overall result.

Parents and education observers have expressed concern over the timing of such policy changes. A parent noted that decisions of this nature should ideally be taken at the beginning of the academic year to avoid confusion. Clear and timely communication, they say, would help students focus better on their studies without unnecessary stress.

All eyes now remain on the court's verdict, which will ultimately decide not just the evaluation format but also the timeline for the SSLC results this year.

English training for bilingual teaching cut short, teachers raise concerns

Teachers say reduced training period has limited their ability to grasp essential aspects of English teaching

The state government's push to strengthen bilingual education in government schools has run into criticism, with teachers alleging that the training meant to improve their English teaching skills has been abruptly curtailed. What was planned as a comprehensive 15-day programme has, in most cases, been reduced to just five days, drawing concern over its effectiveness.

As part of its bilingual education policy, the government had decided to train around 1.55 lakh teachers through the Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) to enable them to teach English alongside the mother tongue for students from Classes 1 to 5. However, with a large number of teachers deployed for the ongoing national census work, the duration of the training has been significantly shortened.

Teachers say the reduced training period has limited their ability to grasp essential aspects of English teaching. The programme was expected to focus on simplifying English instruction for rural students, improving communication skills, and building a foundation in basic grammar. Instead, in many places, teachers



were handed training manuals and given only a brief orientation.

The situation has raised questions about whether teachers, already burdened with census duties and SSLC evaluation work, are adequately prepared to teach English effectively. In some districts, high school teachers have been appointed as resource persons, but concerns remain over the overall quality and depth of the

training. Educators point out that teaching English in rural areas comes with multiple challenges. Many teachers find it difficult to adopt simple and engaging teaching methods, and there is a lack of training in activity-based learning. Addressing the diverse learning needs of students, especially those who are academically behind, requires more sustained and practical training than what has been provided.

There are also concerns about the complexity of the training materials. Teachers, particularly those who primarily teach in Kannada, may struggle to translate and simplify the content for young learners. Observers say the real impact will be seen only when classroom teaching begins.

Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority, Purushottama

Bilimale said, "There is a need to appoint teachers with a strong background in English. I warn that without qualified teachers, the quality of language learning among students could suffer." Education expert Prof VP Niranjanaradhya echoed similar concerns, stating that the government should prioritise recruiting capable English teachers before rolling out such programmes. Effective teaching, he said, depends heavily on teacher competence.

Defending the initiative, DSERT Director Gopalakrishna said that the training was designed to support English teaching from the next academic year and that comprehensive information had been provided through training kits. He added that resource persons had conducted sessions at district centres.

— BMB

Land grab fear: Senior citizen alleges JDA fraud

Landowner claims developer misused pact, sold property twice, secured massive loan and police still register NCR not FIR despite repeated complaints

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Here is a caution for those, especially senior citizens, who own land in and around Yelahanka and want to enter into a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) with land developers, as there are chances of greedy developers selling or mortgaging the land without the owner's knowledge. If you expect the police to come to your rescue, think twice before approaching the jurisdictional police expecting them to register a first information report (FIR), because the police, for reasons best known to them, often avoid acting tough against the accused by merely registering a non-cognizable report (NCR).

Abdul Sattar, a 70-year-old resident of Wilson Vintage Apartment in Adugodi, Bengaluru South, owns seven guntas of land in Yelahanka. He was compelled to approach the



Land flipped multiple times without owner knowledge, complaint says; (Inset) Page 1 of the complaint copy and NCR Copy

Commissioner of Police on April 15, 2026, seeking directions to the Yelahanka Police to register an FIR against some people who allegedly threatened him to vacate the land on April 8, 2026.

"I lodged a complaint with Yelahanka Police on April 8 seeking protection for my property and requesting them to register an FIR

against those who threatened me. However, the police, instead of registering an FIR, registered an NCR (PO1355260600233). Meanwhile,

around 20 people, allegedly claiming to be from Embassy developers, entered the land at 12.30 pm on April 9 and threatened me. I again visited

“One of the sub-inspectors directed those people and me not to enter the land as a civil case pertaining to the land is pending in court

—Abdul Sattar, complainant

Yelahanka Police Station. One of the sub-inspectors directed those people and me not to enter the land as a civil case pertaining to the land is pending in court. I expected the police to protect the land but in vain. I am appealing to you to take suitable action against those trying to usurp my land," the complaint read.

Sattar stated that he had entered into an agreement with a land developer, Adi Reddy, for joint development and received ₹50 lakh on February 25, 2019, for the property bearing survey number 29/3. "The developer, along with two others, sold the land to Dayakar Reddy for ₹2,40,10,000 on August 13, 2020, without my knowledge. Later, Dayakar Reddy sold it to another developer for ₹5,35,07,000 on October 12, 2022. The value doubled within two years. The land developer then mortgaged the same land with a private company and availed a loan of ₹32 crore on October 5, 2023. I believe these dealings are meant to usurp my land," the complaint read.

CRIME FILES

Traffic police tighten grip on reckless driving

A special drive against drunk driving and overspeeding was conducted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police between 13th April and 19th April. The citywide drive saw officials from 53 traffic police stations filing cases against drivers and riders under the influence of alcohol and those overspeeding.

The police inspected 46,844

vehicles across multiple city hotspots and registered 623 cases of drunk driving. A total of 150 cases were filed for overspeeding, and Rs 1,51,000 in fines were collected.

The drive is conducted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police to curb the menace of drunk driving and overspeeding, ensuring safer roads for citizens. —BMB

Swift police action cracks phone snatching case

In the late hours of 19th April, an unidentified individual arrived in a car and snatched a mobile phone from a Swiggy delivery boy before fleeing the scene. The delivery boy immediately contacted the Namma 112 emergency helpline and reported the incident at midnight.

Hoysala 234 from Kadugodi Police Station were informed and reached the victim within five minutes. Police officials

then tried to trace the accused, and upon calling the stolen mobile phone, the accused answered the call.

During the call, the accused initially tried to evade the police, but after being warned about legal consequences, he became apprehensive and returned the mobile phone. The police secured the accused and took him to the station for further legal procedures. —BMB

Crypto laundering probe triggers ED raids statewide

Multiple locations across Karnataka were raided by the Enforcement Directorate on Monday. Officials conducted searches across 12 premises under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against Srikrishna Ramesh and other accused persons. It is alleged that Karnataka Congress MLA NA Haris is connected to the cryptocurrency linked money laundering probe. The raids come after multiple FIRs and charge sheets were filed by

the Karnataka Police linking offences as hacking of international and national websites, theft of bitcoin, extortion, and violations under the NDPS Act. Officials said the proceeds were routed through bank accounts to layer transactions for personal gains by the accused. Officials conducted searches at the premises of Mohammed Haris Nalapad and Omar Farook Nalapad, sons of Shantinagar MLA NA Haris. —BMB

Wishing you a Happy

Akshay Tritiya & Basava Jayanti

May this auspicious occasion bring you prosperity, happiness, and success.



M/S BIJJARGI MOTORS

Authorized Dealers for TATA Passenger Cars

VIJAYAPUR: 9243202254
BAGALKOT: 9243355184



BIJJARGI EXAVATION SOLUTIONS

Authorized Dealers for TATA HITACHI:

Vijayapur, Kalburgi, Bidar, Raichur & Yadgiri

M: 9606062889, 9243202251



BIJJARGI MOTORS PVT. LTD.

Authorized Dealers for TATA Commercial Vehicles

VIJAYAPUR
M: 9606044611, 9606044610



BIJJARGI EV WORLD

Authorized Dealers for

MONTRA Three Wheelers & Tractors:

Vijayapur, Bagalkot, Kalburgi, Bidar & Belagavi

M: 9606916065, 9606916062



BIJJARGI GROUP OF COMPANIES

VIJAYAPUR-BAGALKOT

Pipe dream turns lake into toxic nightmare

Toxic truth surfaces as housing body faces heat, regulator alert issued, oversight questioned, public outrage builds over environmental negligence claims

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the water quality deteriorating day by day, Lower Ambalipura Lake is once again in the news for the wrong reasons. It is quite shocking and ironic to come across an apartment owners' association, which is supposed to preserve the lake, allegedly laying a pipe to discharge wastewater into the water body without fear or remorse.

A few environmentally conscious residents lodged a complaint with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) a few months ago, urging it to take suitable action to stop wastewater from entering the lake. However, the KSPCB environmental officer (Bommanahalli) issued a notice on March 27, 2026 to the Trinity Complex Apartment Owners' Association to install the Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at the sewage treatment plant within seven days and submit a report. However, no measures have been taken to stop wastewater from entering Lower Ambalipura Lake to date.

"We have also told the managing committee of the association to remove the pipe to prevent waste or untreated water from entering the lake, but the president, secretary and treasurer of the association did not bother to fix the problem. We have also lodged a complaint with the KSPCB about the discharge of wastewater into the lake," said Akshata Ganesh, a resident.



File photo of Ambalipura Lake

Residents allege pipeline diversion causing contamination, conservation voices cite legal breach, demand enforcement action, stressing severe threat to fish, birds, amphibians and fragile habitat

She said a team of volunteers led by Akshay Heblikar of Eco Watch visited the lake a few days ago. "They were surprised and shocked to see wastewater flowing into the lake," she said.

Demanding that the authorities concerned take action against those responsible for allowing wastewater into the lake, Rohit Gupta, a resident, said the water quality is deteriorating day by day due to untreated water being discharged into the lake.

"We told the managing committee of the association about the need to remove the pipe immediately, but they did not respond. The roadside drain is connected to the pipe to carry wastewater into the lake instead of making arrangements to connect it to the nearest stormwater drain. We do not want the lake water to become polluted," said Rohit Gupta.

Meanwhile, Akshay Heblikar, director of Eco Watch, said that the residents' welfare association has no

authority to discharge wastewater into the lake. "The residents' welfare association has to obtain permission from the KSPCB to release even treated water into the lake. What is happening now is against the norms," he said.

Stating that immediate action is required to stop illegal drain diversion and car-wash run-off entering Lower Ambalipura Lake, Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a lake conservationist, said the discharge of apartment or household wastewater directly into a lake constitutes a punishable offence under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Run-off from car washing contains phosphates and oil residues that promote harmful algal blooms, reducing light penetration and disrupting the lake's ecological balance. These pollutants also pose serious risks to fish, amphibians, birds and other aquatic life dependent on the ecosystem," said Pachhapur.

He said that Lower Ambalipura Lake witnessed a severe fish kill in 2023, resulting in the death of thousands of fish, an incident widely recognised as a direct consequence of pollution entering the lake. "We urge those responsible for lake management to take immediate corrective measures, including disconnecting all illegal drain connections and issuing formal notices to violators. We further call upon the KSPCB to take suo motu cognisance of the declining water quality and initiate appropriate regulatory action," he said.

However, the president of Trinity Complex Apartment Owners' Association declined to comment.

whatsapp
MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Public peril

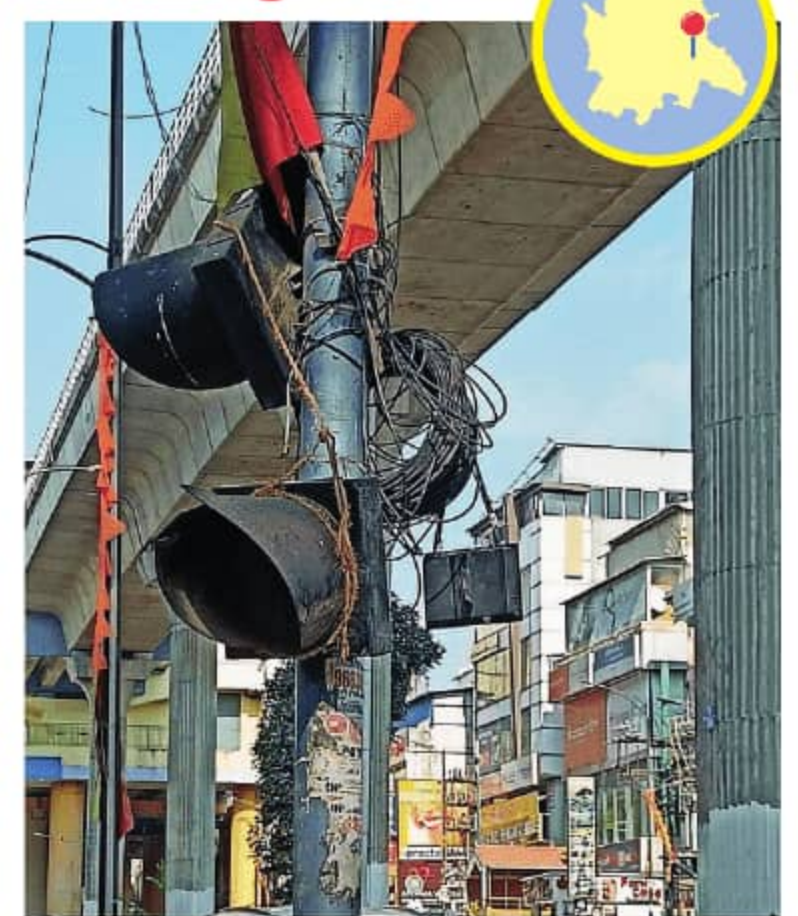
Austin Town



Garbage is being openly burnt next to the Government PUC College on Old Race Course Road in Austin Town, causing inconvenience and health concerns.

Urban hazards

Indiranagar



Old, damaged signal displays left hanging at low heights on poles, including near the HDFC Bank signal on CMH Road in Indiranagar, are obstructing and inconveniencing pedestrians.

Civic neglect

Thippasandra Main Road



Footpaths on New Thippasandra Main Road are completely encroached upon by parked vehicles and hawkers, forcing pedestrians, especially the elderly, to walk on busy roads amid heavy traffic.

Login glitches slow census survey work

Teachers struggle with app glitches and phone issues, delaying census work across districts

The ongoing census exercise has run into trouble right at the start, with enumerators struggling to install the 'House Listing Operation App' (HLO) on their mobile phones in a few districts. The house listing process began on April 16, but many teachers assigned to the task are facing technical hurdles. A number of teachers are using older mobile phones, on which the HLO app does not function. The app requires at least Android 10 to be installed, and several enumerators were unaware of this requirement. As a result, many have not even begun the survey work.

To cope with the situation, some



enumerators have borrowed mobile phones from relatives, friends or spouses. Others are purchasing new smartphones, spending between ₹15,000 and ₹20,000, even though the total remuneration for completing the survey is around ₹25,000. Teachers have expressed concern over the lack of basic support. One teacher said the government had not provided the necessary equipment for the survey, making the task burdensome. Senior teachers, in particular,

are finding it difficult to complete the work, especially those not familiar with updated technology.

Apart from installation issues, login-related problems are also affecting the process. Despite attending training sessions and preparing in advance, enumerators are facing server-related delays. Many are forced to wait for hours to log in, while some do not receive OTPs even after attempting to log in successfully. These recurring technical glitches have slowed down the progress of the census work. Teachers pointed out that while training workshops did include information about updated mobile requirements, many senior staff and those who missed the sessions were unaware. The ground reality became clear only after they began fieldwork. According to a teacher, server and login issues have been a common problem during such surveys.

— BMB

ADDL. BENCH
BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER
DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA
BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS BANGALORE-560001
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
Consumer Case No. 8/2025
Mr. Raghuram Sriesti ...Complainant
Versus
Vedanth Ecom Buildcon and others
...Opposite Parties
To, Opposite Parties : 1. Vedanth Ecom Buildcon
Company, Regd. under the companies act, having
its office at No. 111, SLV Nivasa, 8th Cross,
Smruthingar, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-
560 083 Represented by Mr. BS. Manjunath
2. B.S. Manjunath, aged major, office at No. 111,
SLV Nivasa, 8th Cross, Smruthingar, Bannerghatta
Road, Bengaluru-560 083.
3. Mrs. Shobha B.N. aged major, wife of S.
Manjunath, office at No. 111, SLV Nivasa, 8th Cross,
Smruthingar, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-
560 083.
**CONSUMER COMPLAINT NOTICE UNDER
SECTION 47 OF THE AMENDED C.P.A. 2019
TO THE OPPOSITE PARTIES NO.1, 2 AND 3 FOR
HEARING THE COMPLAINT IN ENGLISH
AND KANNADA DAILY NEWS PAPER VIZ.,
KANNADA PRABHA AND BANGALORE MIRROR,
THE BANGALORE EDITION**
Whereas, the Complainant has filed the above
complaint against you seeking remedy. You are
hereby notified to appear before this Commission in
person or through a pleader or person authorized to
answer all the material facts relating to the
complaint on **27th May 2026 at 10.30 AM.**
Take notice that in case of default of your
appearance on the day mentioned above complaint
will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under the hand and seal of this Commission
on this 23rd March, 2026.
By order of the Commission, ASST.
REGISTRAR-CUM-ASST. ADMN. OFFICER
K.S.C.D.R.C, BANGALORE : 560001
Advocate for Complainant

Advisory warns against artificially ripened mangoes

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

With the summer fruit season in full swing, city markets are witnessing an overwhelming influx of both raw and ripened mangoes. From roadside vendors to wholesale mandis, the abundance has brought cheer to consumers. However, alongside the surge in supply, concerns over artificial ripening practices have resurfaced, forcing fresh caution from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

In a recent advisory dated April 16, 2026, the FSSAI has reiterated its strict prohibition on the use of harmful substances such as calcium carbide,

commonly referred to as 'masala', for ripening fruits. The authority has directed food safety officials across states and Union Territories to intensify inspections and maintain strict vigilance in markets, storage facilities and distribution chains.

"Use of calcium carbide for artificial ripening is illegal and poses serious health risks," the advisory stated. It warned that exposure to such chemicals can lead to symptoms including vomiting, skin ulcers, difficulty in swallowing and other long-term health complications.

The directive comes at a time when mango arrivals have peaked, raising suspicions about the use of quick ripening methods to meet high demand. Traders, under pressure to supply uniformly ripened fruits, are



Artificially ripened mangoes often appear uniformly coloured

often accused of resorting to unsafe practices.

Officials have also flagged the misuse of ethephon solutions, where fruits are dipped directly to accelerate ripening. "Direct contact of fruits

with ethylene in liquid or powder form is strictly prohibited," the FSSAI noted, adding that only regulated ethylene gas-based ripening in controlled conditions is permitted.

Dr Amit Sharma, Executive Director (Compliance Strategy), FSSAI, stressed the need for strict enforcement. "State authorities must step up inspections, especially in fruit mandis and warehouses where seasonal fruits are stored. Any evidence of prohibited substances should lead to immediate action under the Food Safety and Standards Act," he said.

The advisory further empowers enforcement officials to use strip paper tests to detect acetylene gas, a byproduct of calcium carbide, in storage areas and ripening chambers. The presence of such substances can be

treated as circumstantial evidence for prosecution.

Health experts have also raised red flags about the impact of chemically ripened mangoes. "Apart from poor taste and reduced nutritional value, these fruits can cause headaches, dizziness and even affect the nervous system in the long run," said a senior food safety officer. Consumers are being urged to stay alert while purchasing mangoes. Naturally ripened mangoes tend to have uneven colouring, a stronger aroma and are juicier. In contrast, artificially ripened fruits often appear uniformly coloured, less fragrant and comparatively dry. Another simple test, officials say, is placing the fruit in water, as naturally ripened mangoes are more likely to sink.

Tax change: Pay less for cheap drinks, more for premium

New excise policy reshapes liquor pricing, bringing relief for low-end consumers as higher taxes make premium alcohol notably more expensive across the state

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The state government has moved to introduce a significant overhaul of the excise duty policy on liquor, with a sharp increase in taxes on mid-range and premium alcohol, while prices of cheaper liquor are set to drop considerably. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had indicated in his Budget speech that the excise policy would undergo a comprehensive revision, and Excise Minister R B Thimmapur had informed the Legislature that tax slabs would be restructured.

At present, there are 16 tax slabs applicable to Indian Made Liquor such as brandy, whisky, gin and rum. The government has decided to reduce these to eight. A draft notification titled 'Karnataka Excise (Excise Duties and Fees) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026' has been issued.

An excise department official said, "The first slab for declared price, ranging from ₹0 to ₹470, has been retained. However, the additional excise duty on this slab, which stands at ₹297, is proposed to be reduced to ₹50. Similarly, the second slab of ₹471 to ₹520 will continue, but the additional excise duty will be cut from ₹367 to ₹220. As a result, liquor under these two slabs is expected to see a reduction in retail prices. However, the remaining six tax slabs have been reworked, with the draft proposing higher duties than those in force."

Under the existing system, the highest slab, which applies to liquor priced at ₹20,001 and



Excise duty of ₹1,000 per litre of pure alcohol in beverages such as brandy, whisky, gin, milk punch and similar liquors

“Equally important are the steps towards improved transparency, predictability and reduced administrative discretion, which will strengthen the ease of doing business in the sector

—Sanjit Padhi, CEO, International Spirits & Wines Association of India

above, attracts an additional excise duty of ₹3,000. In the proposed revision, the top slab threshold has been brought down to ₹5,001 and above, and the additional excise duty has been increased to ₹3,700. Currently, liquor priced at ₹5,001 attracts an additional excise duty of ₹1,600. If the

draft rules are implemented, the same category will see an increase of ₹2,100 in duty. The revised policy is expected to come into force after that soon.

Sanjit Padhi, CEO, International Spirits & Wines Association of India said, "Greater pricing flexibility is another positive move, as it

enhances competition and empowers consumer choice. Equally important are the steps towards improved transparency, predictability and reduced administrative discretion, which will strengthen the ease of doing business in the sector."

Duty on pure alcohol

Sources said the new policy proposes an excise duty of ₹1,000 per litre of pure alcohol in beverages such as brandy, whisky, gin, milk punch and similar liquors. Bottled beer will also attract this duty, while base excise duty remains unchanged and only additional duty is revised.

Convention halls fined for waste errors

In a major enforcement drive under the Bengaluru West City Corporation, officials of Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited inspected convention halls and kalyana mantapas in Govindaraj Nagar on April 20. The drive focused on violations of solid waste management rules, particularly non-segregated waste disposal.

During the inspection, officials found five convention halls violating the rules. Parvathi Convention Hall was fined Rs 50,000, Padmavathi Convention Hall Rs 50,000, Jalaram Convention Hall Rs 25,000, Sujata Convention Hall Rs 25,000, and Oswal Convention Hall Rs 15,000, totaling Rs 1,65,000 in fines. The Greater Bengaluru Authority stated the drive is part of ongoing efforts to enforce waste management norms and urged function halls to strictly follow waste segregation practices to maintain city cleanliness.

—BMB

Fly91 flight diverted, passengers face delay

Due to weather conditions in Hubballi, a Hyderabad-bound Fly91 flight was forced to land at Kempegowda Airport. The flight was due to land in Hubballi at 4.30 pm, but after being caught in crosswinds and dense clouds, it landed in Bengaluru at 7.30 pm.

Passengers were caught off guard by this change of plans and remained anxious the holding time. Once the weather cleared, the same flight departed from KIA and landed in Hubballi at 9 pm. Later the flight departed for Hyderabad at 10.30 pm, against its scheduled departure time of 8.35 pm. As per the Hubballi Airport Director the diversion was decided after the Fly91 pilot held the aircraft for an hour awaiting safe final landing conditions.

—BMB

RTI penalties pile up, recovery lags behind

Despite over ₹10 crore in penalties imposed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act in Karnataka, only a fraction has been recovered, exposing gaps in enforcement and accountability within government departments. Data from the Karnataka Information Commission shows penalties worth ₹10.38 crore were levied in 10,843 cases for violations such as failure to provide information on time. He noted that despite clear instructions to recover penalties directly from salaries of Public Information Officers under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, departments have failed to implement these orders. Among departments, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has recorded some of the highest violations. Experts point out that while the RTI Act empowers the Commission to impose penalties, it lacks a clear mechanism for recovery, limiting action to reminders or escalation to higher authorities.

—BMB

Western Ghats face rising landslide threat with climate change

Study warns landslide-prone zones in Karnataka may expand sharply by 2050, driven by extreme rainfall, deforestation, and rapid urban growth

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Experts have warned that landslides in the Western Ghats of Karnataka may increase dramatically by 2050. A study by the Indian Institute of Technology in Dharwad shows that if greenhouse gas emissions continue at the highest levels, the total area with very high susceptibility to landslides could rise by nearly 50 percent over the next 24 years.

Researchers found that in 2024, only 8.85 percent of the Ghats area was categorized as "very highly susceptible" to landslides. By 2050, this figure is expected to climb to 13.25 percent, which translates to an additional 1,980 square kilometres falling into the highest-risk category. The study also identified major highways such as NH-66, NH-52, SH-27, and NH-275, along with nearby settlements, as being under high-risk zones. Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru are projected to see the sharpest increases, with new clusters forming along the state's coastal belt.

Under the high-emission scenario, very high-risk areas are expected to expand by 697 square kilometres, rising from 1.18 percent in 2024 to 2.73 percent by 2050. Experts attribute this escalation to changing rainfall patterns and human-induced land-use changes. They



Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru are projected to see sharp increases in landslide-prone clusters, with new danger zones forming along coastal Karnataka

New IIT Dharwad study reveals landslide risks in Karnataka's Western Ghats could nearly double by 2050, threatening highways, settlements, and communities unless sustainable planning and early warning systems improve

emphasize that slope remains the most critical factor governing landslide susceptibility, followed by rainfall, soil type, and land use.

The analysis further highlights that extreme rainfall zones in Karnataka's Western Ghats are likely to expand significantly. In 2024, only one percent of the region experienced rainfall between 4,500 mm and 6,000 mm. By 2050, nearly 24 percent of the Ghats is expected to face such intense rainfall, which will further destabilize slopes in already vul-

nerable areas.

Experts stress that sustainable land use planning, resilient infrastructure development, and stronger early warning systems are urgently needed, particularly in Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu. "The results underscore the essential implications for regional infrastructure development and disaster risk reduction, as proactive interventions are required to safeguard vulnerable communities and transportation corridors. It will also be crucial to ensure that regional develop-

ment follows the sustainable path of SSP1 to keep the future landslide risk escalation in check," the study titled Assessing future landslide susceptibility and risk escalations under changing LULC and climate conditions in the Western Ghats of Karnataka in India noted.

A rapid shift in land use is compounding the problem. A GIS-based analysis shows that built-up areas have grown considerably and will continue to expand. In 2017, 3.64 percent of the Western Ghats was concretised. By 2024, this number rose to 4.71 percent and is projected to nearly double to 8.42 percent by 2050. Meanwhile, deforestation is expected to reduce vegetation cover from 46.72 percent in 2024 to 35.71 percent in 2050, further weakening slope stability and increasing landslide risks.

Milk bank saves fragile newborn lives

In an initiative for neonatal care, a city hospital recently completed one year of its Human Milk Bank, highlighting its role in saving the lives of premature and low-birth-weight babies. Over the past year, the initiative has steadily expanded its reach, offering critical nutritional support to some of the most vulnerable newborns.

Bangalore Baptist Hospital (BBH), which runs one of the only human milk banks serving North Bengaluru, has emerged as a key support system for infants who cannot access their mother's milk immediately after birth. The facility has helped bridge an important gap in neonatal care in the region. In its first year, 65 mothers voluntarily donated over 200 litres of breast milk, benefiting more than 155 small and sick newborns. The impact has extended beyond the hospital, with the milk bank supporting over 20 Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) across Bengaluru.

Dr Madhuri Maganthi, Sr. Consultant Paediatrician and specialist in Paediatric Genetics, noted that the hospital conducts over 250 deliveries every month, many of which are high-risk referrals requiring advanced care. "A significant proportion of these newborns are premature or have low birth weight, and therefore require specialised support in the NICU," she said. "These babies are particularly vulnerable because their intestines are immature and their immune systems are not fully developed, placing them at a high risk for serious conditions such as infections and necrotising enterocolitis (NEC), a potentially life-threatening intestinal disease."

While a mother's own milk remains the gold standard, it is not always immediately available in high-risk deliveries. "In such critical early periods, the availability of safe and appropriate nutrition becomes essential for survival and recovery," Dr Maganthi added. "By providing safe, pasteurised donor human milk, the milk bank ensures that even the most vulnerable babies receive the biological and protective benefits of human milk when they need it the most."

She highlighted that WHO 2022 recommendations favour donor human milk over formula when a mother's own milk is unavailable. "This is based on strong scientific evidence showing that donor human milk significantly reduces the risk of severe intestinal disease such as NEC, lowers infections, improves feeding tolerance, and supports better survival and long-term developmental outcomes," she explained. "The BBH Human Milk Bank is currently the only such facility serving North Bengaluru. It addresses a critical regional gap by ensuring that access to human milk is not limited by geography or circumstance."

-Iffath Fathima

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Temple limits darshan hours to safeguard devotees from summer heat

Koppal administration revises Anjanadri Hill temple timings, restricting midday climbs to protect pilgrims from heat-related health risks

Sridhar Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In response to rising summer temperatures and growing concerns over devotee safety, the district administration has revised darshan timings at the Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple atop Anjanadri Hill in Gangavathi taluk. Koppal Deputy Commissioner Suresh B Itnal has issued an order restricting access to the hill during peak afternoon hours following recent incidents of heat-related health complications among pilgrims. The decision aims to prevent further casualties and ensure safer conditions for visitors during the

harsh summer months.

Under the new schedule, devotees may climb the hill and have darshan only between 6 am and 11 am, and again from 4 pm to 6 pm. Entry to the hill will be strictly prohibited from 11 am to 4 pm, when temperatures peak. "This decision has been taken keeping in mind the health and safety of devotees. The heat on the hill becomes intense during the afternoon, and it is not safe for people to climb during those hours," an official from the district administration said.

The move comes in the wake of several tragic incidents reported over the past few months. At least three devotees have died while climbing the 575 steps to the temple, report-



New schedule limits entry between 11 am and 4 pm, addressing rising heat-related health emergencies reported among pilgrims in recent months

edly due to breathing difficulties and heat exhaustion. On April 1, a devotee from Harihar, Krishnarajappa, collapsed inside the sanctum after being unable to withstand the heat. "We have seen a pattern of health emer-

Devotees visiting Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple must now plan morning or evening climbs, as authorities restrict midday access and deploy health units to prevent heat exhaustion and casualties

gencies, especially during peak heat hours. Immediate steps were necessary to avoid further loss of life," a health department official said.

Authorities pointed out that the hill's rocky terrain absorbs and radiates heat, making conditions particularly severe during April and May. Based on reports submitted by the police and health departments, the administration-imposed time restrictions as a preventive measure. "Public safety is our priority. Devotees must cooperate and plan their visits accordingly," the official added.

To support pilgrims, emergency mobile health units will be set up at

the base of the hill and at the temple premises. These units will conduct basic health screenings and provide first aid if required. The District Health and Family Welfare Department has been directed to ensure adequate medical support during visiting hours. Additionally, authorities will install clear information boards displaying the revised timings at key entry points to inform devotees in advance.

While the decision may inconvenience some, many support it. "It is better to have restrictions than risk lives," said a regular visitor, urging compliance and prioritising health.

Rasikh Salam Dar's persistence pays off for RCB

'I stayed ready for my chance'

Rasikh Salam Dar's rise to the IPL has been built on persistence, with the fast bowler overcoming early challenges in Jammu & Kashmir and long periods away from the game on his way to RCB. That resilience has already been evident on the field this season.

Playing his first game of the season at the Wankhede Stadium, Rasikh returned with figures of 1/23, making an immediate impact. He was handed a crucial over at a crucial stage of the game, but things quickly became physically challenging.

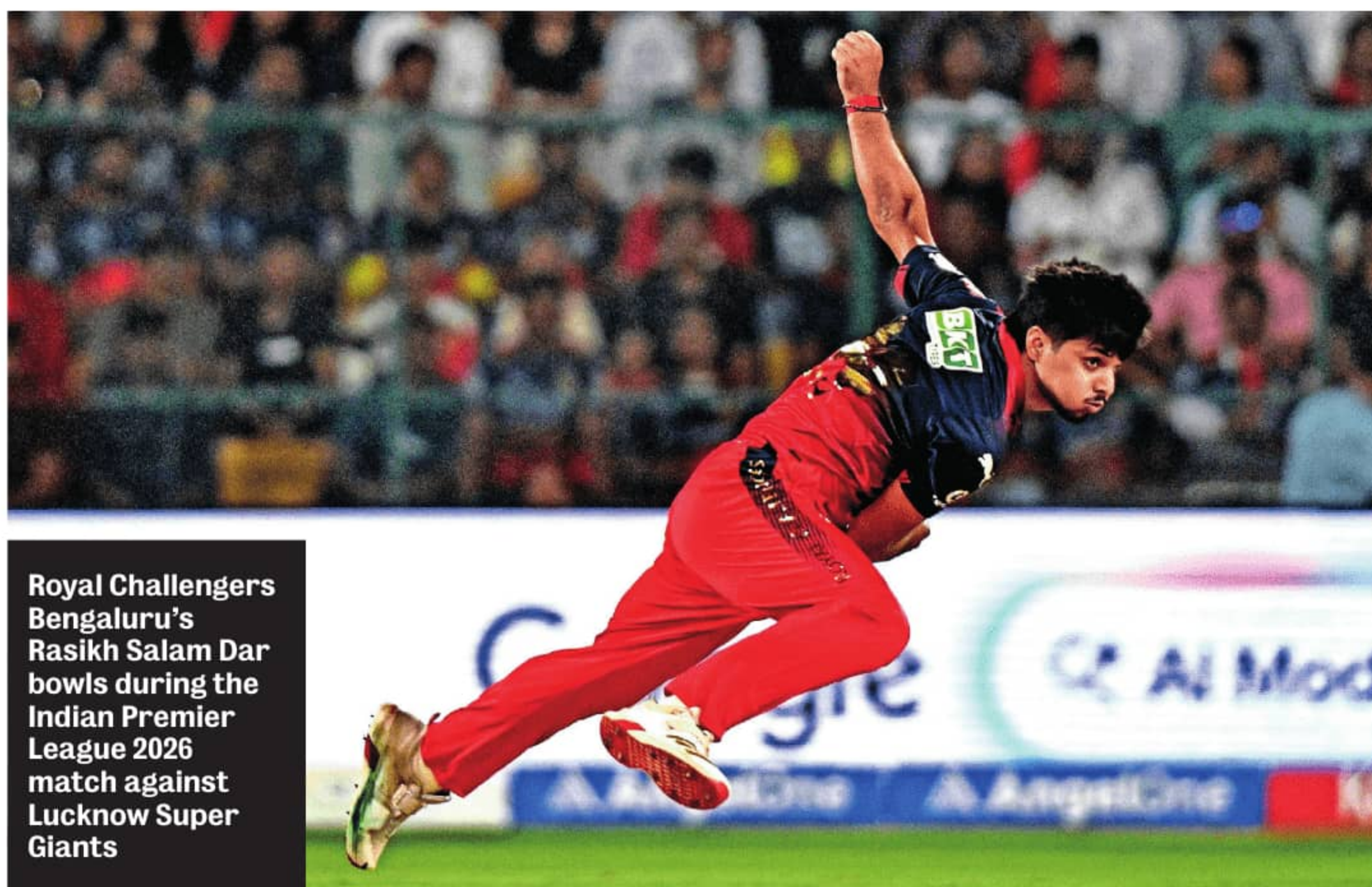
"When I came on to bowl, I got a cramp, something I had never experienced before," Rasikh said, as per a press release from RCB. "After almost every ball, I was cramping. I was falling over while delivering, and I couldn't even bend properly."

Despite the pain, he pushed through. "My only thought was that I had to complete the over. If I could do that, the team would be in a better position."

In the very next game, he built on that effort with a four-wicket haul against Lucknow Super Giants.

"There is a character in him," said Omkar Salvi, Assistant Coach, RCB. "Staying in the hills of Jammu and Kashmir, that hard life, travelling long hours to go and play cricket, you can see the way he has grown as a player."

When Rasikh first began taking cricket seriously, belief around him was limited. "When I started playing professionally, my family and relatives used to say that no one can take cricket as a profession because very few people were playing from our region," he recalled. "But my mother always believed in me. Since childhood, she used to say that my son would become a cricketer."



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Rasikh Salam Dar bowls during the Indian Premier League 2026 match against Lucknow Super Giants

His early steps into cricket came with challenges. Living nearly 70 to 80 kilometres away from Srinagar, even reaching trials was an effort. "When I first went for the Under-19 trials, I didn't even know the process properly. I wasn't selected that year. The next year, when I went again, Irfan Pathan was there. After watching me bowl a few deliveries, he stopped me and started guiding me. That's when I felt that maybe he saw something in me."

While playing for his state, Salvi quickly noticed what set Rasikh apart. "The first thing I saw was that he was competitive. At the same time, he was creative in his approach. Apart from swinging the ball both ways, he had a slower one and a different perspective on how to approach T20 cricket."

But just as his career began to move forward, it came to a halt. Rasikh spent nearly two years

away from competitive cricket between 2019 and 2021.

When he returned, more challenges followed. After being picked by the Kolkata Knight Riders, injuries disrupted his progress once again. "I got a back injury after playing two matches. Then I got injured again during recovery. At that time, I realised I shouldn't rush. I had to follow the process, no matter how long it took."

At the 2024 mega-auction, Royal Challengers Bengaluru showed faith in Rasikh's potential, securing his services for Rs 6 crore.

Rasikh said that joining the side was a huge opportunity to learn. "Working with players like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, I used to ask a lot of questions, why he bowled a certain delivery at a certain time. I just wanted to learn."

The effort behind the scenes was evident to those around him. "He always kept working hard for himself. He was always trying to learn from every game he watched while sitting out. And then he had his own opinions, which we used to discuss later after the game during practice. With Rasikh, he has the ability to move the ball both ways," said Omkar Salvi.

For Rasikh, the journey is far from complete. "I didn't start playing cricket thinking about the IPL or India. I had no idea where this journey would take me. But now, my goal is to play for India across formats, in any format." **-ANI**

Today's battle

Sunrisers Hyderabad
vs
Delhi Capitals

7.30 PM Hyderabad

6-hitting contest

Shreyas Iyer revealed that a light-hearted six-hitting contest in the dressing room sparked Punjab Kings' batting blitz after they hammered Lucknow Super Giants by 54 runs in a high-scoring Indian Premier League 2026 clash on Sunday.

PBKS, who sit atop the points table, produced another batting masterclass, piling up 254/7 — the highest total of the season so far — riding on sensational knocks from Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly. The duo stitched together a stunning 182-run stand for the second wicket in just 13.2 overs, leaving the opposition chasing shadows.

Iyer was effusive in his praise for the pair, saying, "Well, it was exceptional to see. Some of the shots I saw from them were just jaw dropping honestly speaking."

Hitting fast bowlers off the back foot straight down the ground needs a lot of courage. Things can slip a bit but the way they built that partnership, especially in the middle overs was just sensational".

He also revealed the fun challenge that drove their fearless approach. "I was just talking with Cooper and Priyansh about that. I told them, let us compete in this IPL who hits the most sixes and they are up for it. The prize is going to be my bat. So, it doesn't make sense. So, at the end of the day, if they keep performing and the team keeps performing, I am happy."

Iyer emphasised the team's philosophy of backing players to express themselves freely. "I personally feel that, when you just let them be and allow them to go out there and express themselves, that's when they do well. There is no such mantra for us. I think they have got their patterns set and every individual in the team follows their routines and they keep delivering. So, I don't have to say much. We talk before the game. Ricky chips in a few words, I add a few too. The boys come and they deliver in the middle." **-IANS**



Punjab Kings' Cooper Connolly celebrates his half-century with his teammate Priyansh Arya during the Indian Premier League 2026 match against Lucknow Super Giants

Tilak Varma's century, bowlers' deadly attack crush Gujarat

Gujarat Titans were struggling to reach the total set by Mumbai Indians during the IPL match at Narendra Modi Stadium on Monday after regular loss of wickets.

Jasprit Bumrah led the attack as Mumbai Indians hunted in a pack as all their bowlers managed to get timely wickets. Gujarat Titans' batting line-up folded up quite easily with no batsman able to cross 30.

For Mumbai Indians, it was India's T20 World Cup champion Tilak Varma who with his maiden IPL century got them to post 199/5 in 20 overs despite early breakthroughs by Kagiso Rabada.

Asked to bat first, the Mumbai Indians had a cautious start with a new opening combination of debutant Danish Malewar and experienced Quinton de Kock. The pair struggled to find timing early on, managing just two runs in the open-

ing over, bowled by Mohammed Siraj.

The pressure told in the second over when Kagiso Rabada struck early. Malewar, playing his first match, was trapped after scoring just two runs. De Kock tried to get going but couldn't convert his start, falling for 13 off 11 balls as Rabada produced a sharp caught-and-bowled effort.

Amid the early setbacks, Naman Dhir looked positive and played a few attacking shots, including consecutive boundaries off Siraj. However, Rabada continued to dominate the Power-play, removing Suryakumar Yadav for 15 to leave the Mumbai Indians in trouble. At the end of six overs, the Mumbai Indians were restricted to 46/3.

With the top-order back in the pavilion, Tilak Varma and Dhir focused on rebuilding the innings. The duo showed good composure,



1. Mumbai Indians' Indian Jasprit Bumrah, centre, celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Gujarat Titans' Sai Sudharsan;
2. Mumbai Indians' Tilak Varma celebrates after scoring a century

rotating the strike regularly and picking up boundaries whenever the bowlers erred. Their steady approach helped MI recover, as they reached 75/3 at the halfway mark.

The partnership grew to 52 runs before Prasidh Krishna broke through in the 13th over. Dhir attempted a big shot but was caught in the deep, ending a valuable knock



of 45 off 32 balls, which included several well-timed boundaries.

Tilak, who had started cautiously on a slightly slow pitch, began to accelerate after Dhir's dismissal. He targeted the bowlers in the middle and death overs, especially taking on Prasidh Krishna in a high-scoring over that shifted momentum back in MI's favour.

He brought up his half-century in 33 balls and continued to play aggressively. In the final overs, Tilak showcased his full range of shots, finding gaps with ease and clearing the boundary regularly. His timing and shot selection stood out as he took control of the innings.

Tilak eventually reached his maiden IPL century in just 45 balls and remained unbeaten on 101. His outstanding knock was decorated with eight fours and seven sixes, helping the Mumbai Indians finish strongly.

Police say each case is treated with priority

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The situation became more worrying in 2025, when 3,515 women were reported missing, the highest in the three-year period. More concerning was the sharp increase in the number of women who remained untraced, which rose to 197 cases, nearly three times higher than the previous two years. The figures indicate that about over nine women went missing every day, reinforcing the troubling trend of two women being reported missing every five hours in the city.

The pattern appears to be continuing in 2026 as well. As of February 20, police have already recorded 469 missing women cases, while 182 women remain untraced. This means that in just the first 51 days of the year, more than nine women have been reported missing every day, once again translating to two women going missing roughly every five hours.

Police officials maintain

that every missing complaint is treated as a priority and immediate action is taken to trace the individuals. "As soon as a missing complaint is registered, teams begin verification. CCTV footage, mobile phone tracking and coordination with other districts are used to locate the person," a senior police officer said.

Another officer involved in missing persons investigations said early reporting by families has improved response time. "Families now approach the police quickly when someone goes missing. Early reporting helps us start the search faster and increases the chances of tracing the individual," the officer said. Police also coordinate with railway stations, bus terminals, shelter homes and neighbouring districts during investigations. Technology-driven tracking methods and field verification are used to trace missing persons.

Workers from TN, West Bengal head home to vote

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Gas cylinders are too expensive for us. Even before this shortage, we couldn't afford them regularly. Cooking with wood is what we know," said Lakshmi, who works as a domestic worker.

However, the situation is more challenging for skilled and migrant workers, who live in rented rooms or paying guest accommodations. These workers typically depend on LPG for cooking and are now finding it difficult to secure refills. With rising prices and limited availability, many are struggling to prepare meals at home.

"We depend on LPG because we stay in small rooms where using firewood is not possible. Now, getting a refill is very difficult, and we don't have many options," said a tile worker.

Some migrant workers say the shortage has added to their financial strain, forcing them to consider alternatives such as eating out more often, which is not sustainable in the long run. Others are even rethinking their decision to stay in the city, citing the rising cost of living and basic necessities. Many migrant workers from West Bengal and Tamil Nadu also opted to travel back to their home towns in time for the assembly elections. Many workers BM spoke to said they were hoping they could return if the issue is resolved in the coming weeks.

Global tensions simmer, but real estate market stable in city



Iffath Fathima @timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even as global tensions continue to create uncertainty, Bengaluru's real estate market has remained largely stable. While there has been some impact on investor sentiment particularly from overseas buyers the city has not seen any major slowdown in demand. Industry experts say strong local factors such as job growth, infrastructure development, and steady homebuyer demand are helping the market stay resilient despite global challenges.

However, there has been limited impact. "Since the onset of unrest in the region, demand from Middle Eastern investors has fallen by approximately 50%. We anticipate that demand from Middle Eastern NRIs will normalise and eventually increase. While there has been an increase in the selling of UAE-based properties, we have not observed any signs of distress selling regarding Indian properties. Given that local Dubai properties may not yield higher returns in the coming years, the strong growth in the Indian market is likely to attract more investment. This mirrors a similar trend we observed during the pandemic," said Saurabh Garg, co-founder and CBO of NoBroker.

Priyanka Raju, director, Kalyani developers, noted that Bengaluru's housing market has not witnessed any immediate slowdown. "Global conflicts, including recent tensions in the Middle East, have not caused any immediate slowdown in Bengaluru's real estate demand. A recent study shows that Bengaluru recorded 61,000 new residential unit launches in 2025, with sales volumes holding firm even amid global uncertainty. The city's housing market continues to be driven by local fundamentals such as IT sector growth, GCCs, infrastructure expansion, and rising urban migration. While global uncertainty does create caution among some investors, end-user demand for

homes in Bengaluru remains resilient and steady."

On evolving investment patterns, she highlighted a nuanced shift. "We have observed that NRI buyers, particularly from the Middle East, are showing greater interest in Bengaluru's residential projects as a safe and stable investment option. Geopolitical tensions often push NRIs to diversify their assets, and Indian real estate, especially Bengaluru, remains attractive due to strong rental yields and long-term appreciation. Foreign institutional investors, however, are adopting a more cautious approach, waiting for clarity on global economic trends before committing to large-scale investments."

Meanwhile, Nesara BS, chairman Concorde described the situation as one of cautious stability. "Geopolitical tensions, including those in the Middle East, have introduced a degree of caution across global markets. In Bengaluru, we are seeing some of these ripple effects, but they remain limited in nature. End-user demand continues to be resilient, supported by the city's strong economic fundamentals particularly its technology-led growth, steady job creation, and sustained urban migration. These underlying drivers have ensured that buyer sentiment remains stable despite external uncertainties."

On construction challenges, Nesara pointed out supply-side pressures. "The impact is more pronounced on the supply side. We are seeing upward pressure on input costs particularly steel, cement, and logistics driven by global supply chain disruptions and higher fuel prices. There are also intermittent challenges related to labour availability, which can affect execution timelines in certain cases. Additionally, localised disruptions in sourcing specific materials such as fittings and ceramics have been observed. However, developers are actively mitigating these risks through advanced procurement strategies, stronger vendor partnerships, and increased adoption of mechanisation."

"From a measurable standpoint, construction costs have seen an increase in the range of 5 to 10 percent across key inputs and labour. While demand remains stable, there has been some moderation in transaction velocity in select micro-markets. These trends are cyclical in nature and do not indicate any structural weakening of demand," he added.

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION
VACANT

ADMINISTRATION

MANAGERS

EMPLOYMENT

Opportunity for Retired, VRS NRIs, Self Employed, Teachers & Homemakers.
Fixed Pay & Incentives.
Contact:-7026655688 / 8197350128

real estate

BANGALORE
PROPERTIES

RT NAGAR

HOUSE for Sale at HMT Layout near CBI Road R.T. Nagar 40x60 E/F, 5 BHK Duplex Price 9.5 Cr Ngo. Contact 9448046717/9448818742

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Annapurna Nagaraja W/O, Nagaraja .s R/o No-1,sree Gajana Krupa,swvc 407 Main Road, 4th Phase,yelahanka Newtown,bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Annapurna Mandali Rudrappa.

I, JONE JARO D/O JOHN A R U L D O S S , R / O BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560103, THAT BOTH THE NAMES, I.E., JONE JARO AND JONE JARO J, REFERS TO ONE AND THE SAME PERSON, I.E. MYSELF AND AM USING THE NAME JONE JARO FOR ALL PRESENT AND FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, Ragochetan Nikhil Kumar Sad,S/o Late Ragochetan Gopal Sad, residing at No. 1001/1002, Sri Praharsha Nilaya, Bank colony, Banashankari, Bengaluru- 560050, have changed my name from Ragochetan Nikhil Kumar Sad to Nikhil Vaishnav vide affidavit dated 18/04/2026 before notary L. Puttaraju. Bengaluru.

I, PRASHANT KUMAR BHALKE residing at No 55, Shrivasti, 1st Cross, Shirdi Sai Nagar, Thanisandra, K Narayanapura Main, Bengaluru - 560077 have changed my name to PRASHANTH KUMAR MALLIKARJUN BHALKE vide affidavit dated 06/04/2026 sworn before notary H K Gopalagowda B'lore

I, SHANMUGHAM KANDASWAMY R/o No 152, 5th Main, Diftence Layout, Vidyananyapura, Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to K SHANMUGHAM for all purposes.

I Meena Nichani W/O, Mahesh Nichani R/o No-3211,casa Serenita Sobha City,thanisandra Rd, Dr Shivaramakaranth Nagar, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to Meena Mahesh Nichani.

I Mohak Indurkar S/O, Manik Indurkar R/o Near Gramin Police Mukhyalay Plot No. 46, New Thaware Colony, Kamptee Road Jaripatka S.O, Jaripatka, Nagpur, 440014 have changed my name to Mohak Manik Indurkar

I, JOICE MARY A, D/o, Anthony Cruz A S Residing at No 13/C, 1st Cross, Anandapuram, Jeevanbhimanagar, New Thippasandra Post, Bangalore-560075. Have changed my name to JANAVI A vide affidavit dated 18/04/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, JYOTHI residing at No 75, Sri Durga Krupa, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Singapura Garden, Abbigere, Bengaluru-560097 have changed my name to JYOTHI GOPAL vide affidavit dated 20/04/2026 sworn before notary T V BHADRAVIJAYA Bangalore

I, JYOTHI GOPAL residing at No 75, Sri Durga Krupa, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Singapura Garden, Abbigere, Bengaluru-560097 have changed my minor son name from G JAGATH KARNIK to JAGATH KARNIK vide affidavit dated 20/04/2026 sworn before notary T V BHADRAVIJAYA Bangalore

I, LISHA YARAPOTHINA residing at Dharani Comforts Flat No.S-02, 2 Cross, MLA Layout, Kalena Agrahara Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to LISHA CHOWDARY YARAPOTHINA vide affidavit dated 20/04/2026 sworn before notary V RANGARAMU B'luru

I, Anitha Singanamalla, # 3/1 beml layout basaveshwara nagar Bengaluru 560079. I changed my name to Jakka Anitha

I, Jayasheela Chibbenahalli W/o B K Lakshman R/o #96,9th Main Road, S R Naidu Layout Devarachikkanahalli Main Road B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Jayasheela

I, Smruti Dash Resident of No. 29, 12th Cross, Maruthi Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nilaya 2nd A Cross Sri Muneshwara Layout Vadarahalli Bengaluru have changed my name to Pooja G Holeyannavar

I Pooja Holeyannavar D/O, Gangadhar R/o 23 Sri Banashankari Nilaya 2nd A Cross Sri Muneshwara Layout Vadarahalli Bengaluru have changed my name to Pooja G Holeyannavar

I, Subbalakshmi Rengaswamy W/O R. Govindaraj No - 1025/27/3, 6th Cross, 9th Main, Srirampuram Blore-560021 have changed my name to Subbu Lakshmi Rengaswamy for all purposes

I, J. Kiruba S/O G.Jayaraman No- 17/1, 15th Main, 17th Cross, JC Nagar, Mahalakshimpuram, Layout, Blore-560086 have changed my name to Jayaraman Krupakaran, for all purposes

I, Rashmi Devji Patel W/O Paresh Devji Patel # No- 17/18, 11th Main, 3rd Cross, MSR Layout, Begur, Hongasandra, Blore-560068 have changed my name to Rashmi Patel for all purposes

I Alifiya Hanif Wadwala D/O, Hanif Haroon Wadwala R/o Flat 001 Elegant Palace Apartments, Thimappa Reddy Layout, Hulimavu Bannerghatta Road. Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Alifiya Hanif Wadwala.

I, BALAKRISHNA residing at Dharani Comforts Flat No.S-02, 2 Cross, MLA Layout, Kalena Agrahara Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to BALAKRISHNA YARAPOTHINA vide affidavit dated 20/04/2026 sworn before notary V RANGARAMU B'luru

Builders say NRI buyers, particularly from the Middle East, showing interest in city's residential projects as safe investment option

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.



THROW A PARTY, DON'T BREAK A SWEAT



Simple gatherings boost connection and cut pressure of entertaining at home

Inviting friends and family over for a celebration, holiday or routine dinner offers a chance to connect, but the pressure to serve good-tasting food in a clean, welcoming environment can deter many from hosting, or stop them from being fully present with their guests.

However, there are practical ways to reduce the stress of entertaining at home, along with strong reasons to do it more often. Mental health experts and experienced hosts say in-person gatherings are essential, especially as remote work and digital communication increasingly replace face-to-face interaction. Without them, adults can become lonely and isolated.

"Oftentimes, we expect someone else to reach out to us. But if most people think that way, it becomes rare," said Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a psychology professor at Brigham Young University and lead author of a 2023 US surgeon general's report

on the health risks of loneliness.

Seasoned hosts suggest focusing on meaningful interaction rather than perfection. Planning simple menus, organising light activities and asking guests for help can ease pressure and create a more relaxed atmosphere where everyone, including the host, can participate.

"When we are more socially connected, we are not only happier, but healthier and live longer," Holt-Lunstad said.

Gatherings are not just for the guest

Madeline Johnson, 24, shares recipes, décor tips and ideas for back garden parties on social media under the name Madeline May. She began hosting in search of connection.

"As an only child, I always wanted community," she said. "I realised if I wanted that village around me, I would have to build it myself." Now, she encourages others to overcome hesitation and bring people together. She believes unrealistic expectations often stop people from hosting.

"There's far too much unnecessary pressure. People think the bar is very high when

it's actually much lower," she said.

As someone naturally reserved, Johnson often plans simple activities, such as painting or trivia, to ease initial awkwardness, especially when guests do not know one another.

Experts say shared tasks can also help. Asking guests to bring dishes or assist with small jobs like setting the table not only reduces workload but encourages conversation.

"In the US, we are so time-deprived and over-scheduled that it is difficult to sit down and be present, but a shared meal allows that," Holt-Lunstad said. "We shouldn't underestimate the power of food."

Kitchen shortcuts for hosts

Food does not need to be elaborate. Shared appetisers like charcuterie or grazing boards, along with dishes prepared in advance such as casseroles or soups, can simplify hosting. They reduce time spent cooking on the day and make serving and cleaning up easier.

Chef and cookbook author Josh McFadden, known for creating approachable dishes

from seasonal ingredients, highlights grazing-style eating as rooted in communal traditions. Modern variations, such as butter boards topped with honey, herbs or spices and served with bread, have gained popularity.

"You can combine a variety of textures and flavours in an easy way while showcasing seasonal food," McFadden said. "It becomes a shared, interactive meal and naturally sparks conversation."

He also recommends serving food on platters for guests to help themselves, incorporating shop-bought items and asking guests to contribute dishes or drinks to lighten the load.

Katie Eu, 26, from New Hampshire, prefers "bring your own" gatherings, especially as hosting can be expensive.

"It's low-pressure because you're not responsible for all the food, you're providing the space," she said.

Supporting the host as the guest

Experts emphasise that what matters most is the opportunity for connection, not perfect food, décor or a large home.

"The rest is a bonus," said Richard Slatcher, a social psychology professor at the University of Georgia. "It's really about the people."

Still, inviting others into your home can feel vulnerable. Guests gain insight into your tastes, interests and personality through your surroundings. But this openness plays a key role in building genuine relationships.

Guests, too, share responsibility for making gatherings meaningful. Simply attending without engaging can limit connection.

"If you're passively present, you won't feel connected," Holt-Lunstad said.

For hosts like Johnson, uncertainty around attendance can be a major source of stress. Guests failing to confirm, arriving late or cancelling last-minute can undermine the effort put into organising an event.

"If you want to be a good guest, put the invitation in your diary, avoid double-booking and try to arrive on time," she said.

Showing consideration also includes helping to tidy up and being mindful not to overstay.

"Hosting is hard, so being aware of the space you're in and the space you take up really matters," Eu said.

—AP

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Carb impact

Bread and other carbohydrate staples may be doing more than filling plates — they could be quietly reshaping metabolism. In a surprising finding, researchers observed that mice strongly preferred carbohydrates such as bread, rice and wheat, abandoning their regular diet entirely. Despite not consuming more calories, they gained weight and body fat because their bodies burned less energy. Bread has long been a dietary cornerstone, sustaining societies for generations. However, with obesity rates continuing to rise, scientists are questioning whether heavy reliance on refined carbohydrates still makes sense in modern diets.

Study findings

A research team led by Professor Shigenobu Matsumura at Osaka Metropolitan University studied how carbohydrates influence eating behaviour and metabolism in mice. The animals were offered foods such as wheat, bread and rice alongside standard chow. The results showed that mice consistently favoured carbohydrate-rich foods and stopped eating their regular diet. Even without a significant increase in calorie intake, both body weight and fat mass rose. Mice consuming rice flour gained weight similarly to those eating wheat flour, suggesting the effect was not specific to wheat.

Metabolic impact

Further analysis revealed that weight gain was linked to reduced energy expenditure rather than overeating. The mice showed higher levels of fatty acids in the blood and increased fat accumulation in the liver, alongside metabolic changes tied to lipid production. When wheat flour was removed, both weight and metabolic abnormalities improved quickly. Researchers suggest that shifting towards a more balanced diet may help regulate body weight more effectively.

—ANI



MIRRORLIGHTS

Tiny seeds, huge impact: moringa cleans toxic microplastics from drinking water

Moringa seeds may offer a low-cost, natural way to remove microplastics from water, rivalling conventional chemical treatments. Scientists found that extracts from Moringa oleifera cause plastic particles to clump together, making them easier to filter out.

Researchers from São Paulo State University in Brazil reported that the seed extract performed

similarly to aluminium sulphate, a widely used coagulant in water treatment plants. In more alkaline conditions, the moringa extract even proved more effective.

The study focused on in-line filtration, where water is treated with a coagulant before passing through a sand filter. Microplastics typically carry a negative charge, preventing them from

binding together. Coagulants neutralise this charge, allowing particles to cluster and be removed more efficiently.

Laboratory tests using polyvinyl chloride (PVC) microplastics showed that both moringa extract and aluminium sulphate achieved comparable removal rates. The researchers used advanced imaging techniques to measure particle

reduction and cluster size.

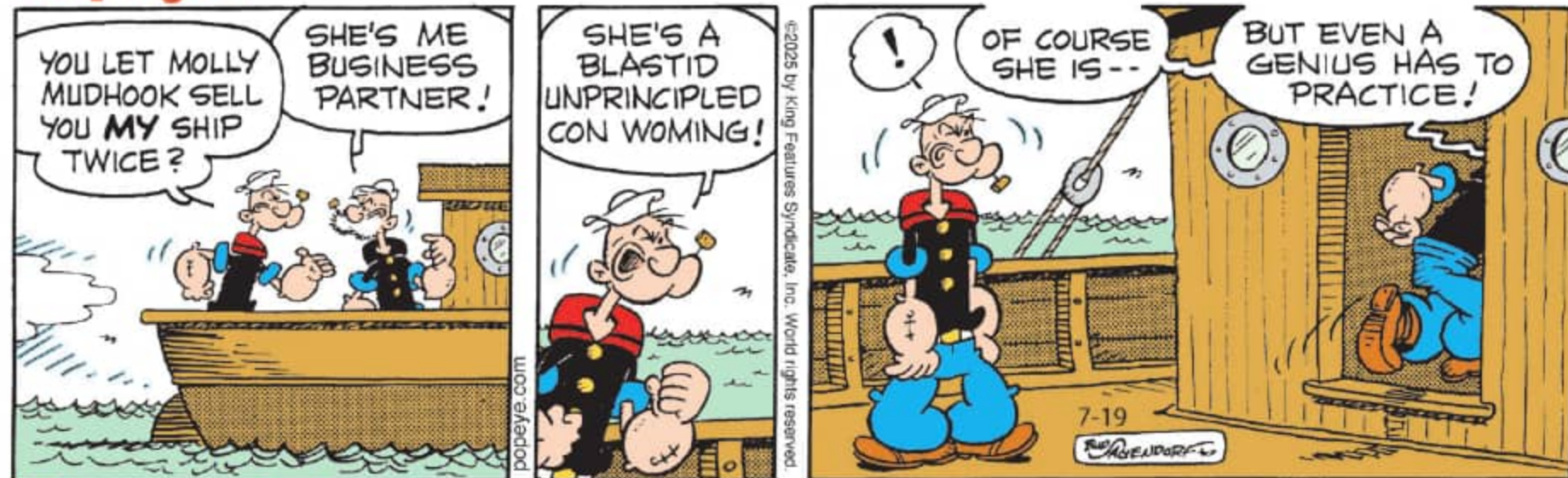
Moringa, native to India and widely grown in tropical regions, has long been studied for its water-purifying properties. The findings suggest it could be a sustainable alternative, particularly for rural areas and small communities where cost-effective solutions are essential.

Further testing on natural water sources is ongoing, with promising early results.

—ANI

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft

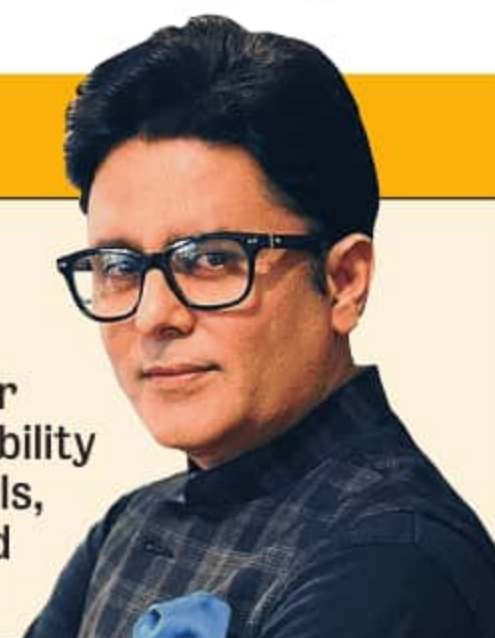


Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Celebrating today welcomes a year of steady success, heartfelt connection, and refreshing adventure. Travel opportunities appear through friendships or career invitations. Romance grows warm, loyal, and reassuring. Financial stability strengthens through wise planning. Domestic life feels joyful with shared meals, laughter, music, and quiet comfort. Embrace change, trust your instincts, and explore the roads opening before you this wonderful year.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Inspiration energizes you today, Aries, helping you finish tasks you've postponed. Your enthusiasm motivates others too. Expect a productive yet tiring day filled with accomplishment.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Dreams you've been working toward may begin manifesting today, Leo. Your dedication finally shows results, bringing fulfillment and encouraging news about future opportunities.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

It's time to rebuild your strength today, Sagittarius. Let go of past pain and focus on personal healing. Your journey requires attention to yourself, not surrounding negativity.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Repairing your relationship with your partner becomes important today, Taurus. Spend meaningful time together and show appreciation. Let go of ego to strengthen your bond.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Friends may seek your guidance today, Virgo. Offer honest advice confidently, as your thoughtful perspective holds great value to those around you.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Your affectionate nature attracts attention today, Capricorn. While sharing kindness, remain mindful of who deserves your trust. Choose carefully where you invest your emotional energy.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Your mind feels focused and determined today, Gemini. Use this clarity to commit to plans you've been considering. Progress becomes possible when you dedicate yourself fully.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Joy and enthusiasm fill your day, Libra. Notice and appreciate the positive details around you. Gratitude helps strengthen new connections and brightens your experiences.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

You may need to choose sides today, Aquarius. Approach the situation diplomatically and explain your perspective clearly to preserve important relationships.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Maintaining positivity today attracts new friendships and experiences, Cancer. Communication flows easily, opening doors to meaningful connections and memorable moments.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Use your energy efficiently today, Scorpio. Complete tasks early so you can spend the later part of the day relaxing and caring for yourself.



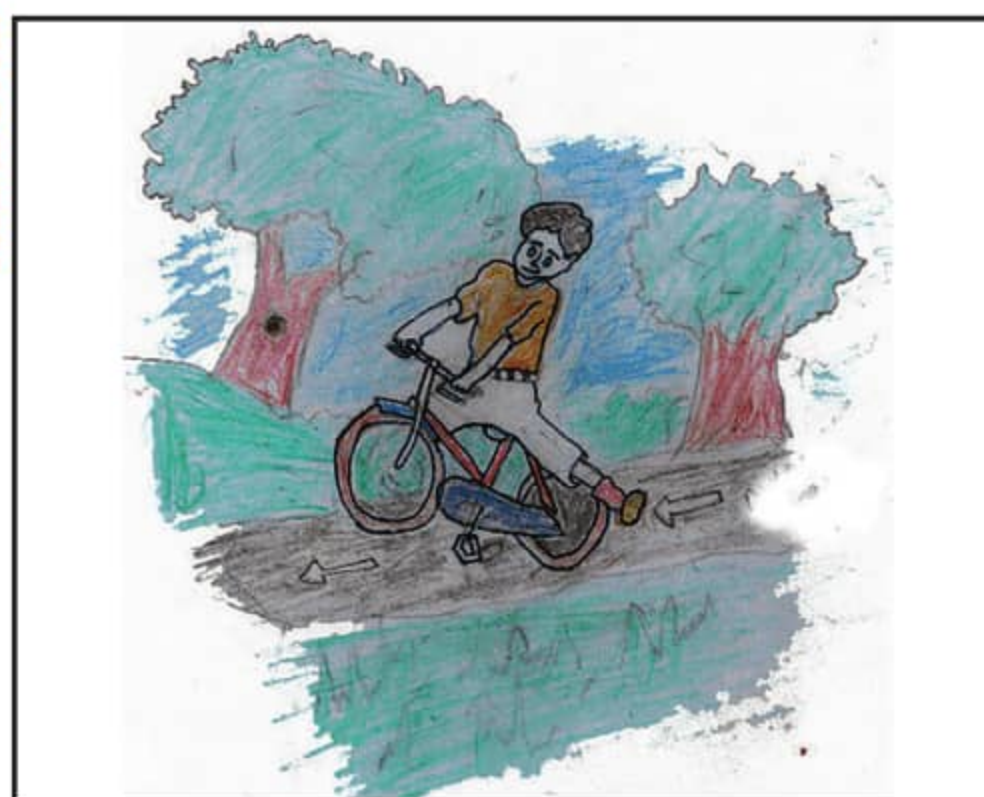
Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Avoid forcing your opinions on others today, Pisces. Allow people to make their own choices while you continue focusing on your personal ambitions and long-term goals.

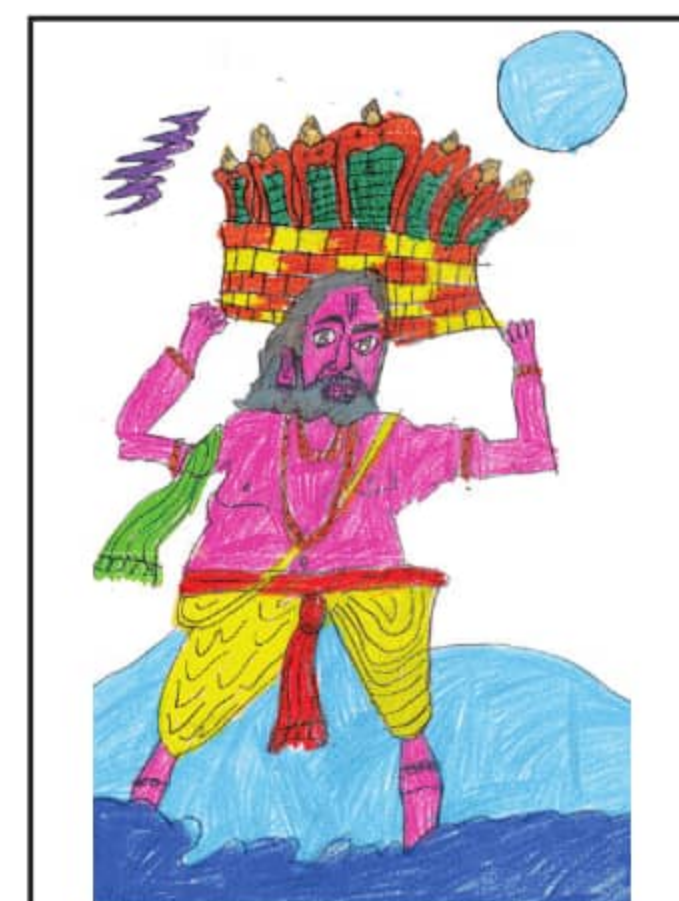


www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Tejas, Bengaluru



Amogh, Bengaluru

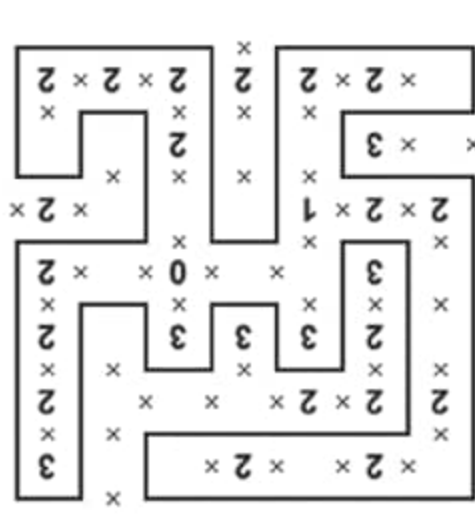
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;

Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



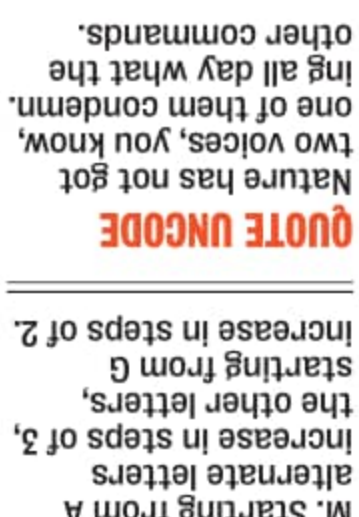
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSAPUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

Boundaries set

Sanya Malhotra looks back at how she learned to say 'no' over her decade-long career in films



Sanya Malhotra is celebrating a decade in acting this year. Her big break came in 2016 with Aamir Khan's 'Dangal', portraying wrestler Babita Kumari. Despite limited screen time, she built a strong reputation through standout roles in acclaimed films and commercial hits.

Sanya Malhotra opens up about being an outsider

Hailing from Delhi as an outsider, Sanya Malhotra carved her path in showbiz independently. Yet, mastering the art of turning down uncomfortable patterns proved her biggest challenge. "I learnt how to say no over time. Now, I say it quite easily. But it took me some time. Na bolne se pehle mujhe panic attack aa jaata tha (I used to have panic attacks before I said no). I used to wonder, how do I say no? I would be worried that if I do that, I may not get work after that. And even if I somehow did it, I would carry this guilt for months on end. Apart from me not getting more opportunities, mujhe yeh darr lagta tha ki unko bura lag gaya hoga (I was afraid that they might get offended)," she tells News18.

Sanya's firm mantra

The actress now follows a mantra of being polite yet firm. "You need to understand that a film is a director's medium. But you, as an actor, can definitely give your suggestions. Sometimes, they listen to you and sometimes, they don't. But I learnt the hard way that if I don't say no, it would mean that I'm only living their dream and doing things their way instead of living my own life," she remarks. —ETimes

Charlize slams Timothee's 'reckless' opera remark

Hollywood star Charlize Theron has called out Timothee Chalamet for his controversial remarks that "no one cares" about opera or ballet, saying it was a "reckless comment on art forms". Chalamet made the controversial comments during "A CNN & Variety Town Hall Event" right in the middle of his Oscar campaign for "Marty Supreme" in February, leading to bashing on social media and from the art world. The actor said that he didn't want the atypical movie going to end up like "ballet or opera," where artists want to "keep this thing alive" even though "no one cares" about it anymore.

In an interview with The New York Times, Theron was asked to comment on Chalamet's claim when she spoke about her respect for dancers. "Oh, boy, I hope I run into him one day. That was a very reckless comment on an art form, two art forms, that we need to lift up constantly because, yes, they do have a hard time. But in 10 years, AI is going to be able to do Timothee's job, but it will not be able to replace a person on a stage dancing live," she said. Theron is a trained ballet dancer who studied at Joffrey Ballet School in New York and started dancing from the age of four. —ETimes



Kajol's birthday wish for Nysa



Kajol marked daughter Nysa Devgn's 23rd birthday on Monday with a heartfelt Instagram post, writing that "her world changed the day Nysa was born." The actor shared two photos from last year's Durga Puja celebrations and posted an emotional message. In one image, Kajol and Nysa smile at the camera

at a Durga Puja Pandal. In the second, Kajol hugs Nysa tightly during the festival. According to Kajol's social media post, she wrote, "I am so blessed .. she was born and the world changed.. I thank God everyday for You my darling .. u are perfect and all mine always. Happy happy birthday to u and me bless (sic)." —ETimes

'Raaka' director Atlee and wife Priya welcome baby girl

Atlee and Priya Atlee have announced the birth of their second child, a baby girl with the news trending on social media, where fans and celebrities alike have congratulated the family. The couple has a son, Meer, and they are now enjoying life with a baby girl.

Taking to his social media page, Atlee shared the joyful announcement in a simple yet emotional way. He wrote, "Feeling blessed," and posted a creative note that read, "Yay! I've got a baby sister! We, and Atlee, are blessed with a baby girl. April 20th, 2026." Besides, there was a cheeky drawing of their son Meer, who could not wait to meet his baby sister. —ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

From acting to direction

Aryan Santosh, known for his performances in Kannada films Dear Sathya and Nooru Janmaku, has stepped into direction with his debut film Chenkol (meaning "royal scepter").

The teaser of the film was unveiled at MMB Legacy on Friday.

The launch event was graced by Dynamic Prince Prajwal Devaraj and spiritual leader Anand Gururji, who attended as guests of honour.

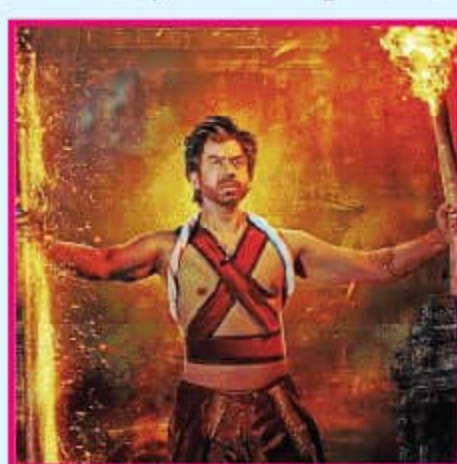
"The teaser has turned out well. The

quality of the teaser is very good. Music director Manikanth Khadri does not need any introduction. His work speaks. Aryan Santosh is also known for hard work and dedication. He has been associated with Sandalwood for quite a long time. He got a good cast and crew for this movie. The quality of the teaser is the testimony for the team's efforts. I wish him all the best," said Devaraj.

"I am playing the protagonist apart from handling the megaphone for this movie," said Aryan

Santosh, adding that Chenkol belongs to the fantasy drama genre.

The movie is scheduled for release in two parts. The filming of the first part was wrapped up recently and it is ready for release.



'Sherr' to be out soon

PraSiddh, who previously directed Kannada films Ratnamanjari and Bharjari Gandu, is gearing up for the release of his third venture, Sherr. If all goes as planned, the film is expected to hit theatres next month. The project had its muhurat function at Kanteerava Studios back in August 2022, marking the formal start of production.

"The release of this movie was delayed by a month. The filming of the movie was held in and



around Bengaluru for over 60 days. We visited Bangkok to shoot two songs. Though the script did not demand such a location, we preferred Bangkok to ensure watching song sequences is a visual treat for audiences," said director PraSiddh.

The director expressed his gratitude to producer Sudarshan Sunderaraj, acknowledging his commitment to maintaining quality throughout the shooting without any compromise. "I am very happy to have such a producer who has a profound passion for films. I never faced any difficulty during the shooting of the movie because of the producer who provided all the amenities," he said. Kiran Raj, known for his performance in Kannada serial Kannadati, plays the lead in the film.